

ADAM BELL,
CLIM of the CLOUGH,
AND
WILLIAM of CLOUDESLE.

Clim of the Clough. Adam Bell.

William.



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WILLIAM G. OLDEN

ALBANY

WILLIAM G. OLDEN



WILLIAM G. OLDEN
1881

Adam Bell.

Merry it was in the green forest
among the leades green
Whereas men hunt east and west
with bowes and arrowes ken.
To raffe the Deer out of their den,
Such fights habe not oft been seen :
As by thre peomen of the North Countrey,
by them it is I mean.
The one of them hight Adam Bell
another Clim of the Clough,
The third was William of Cloudestle,
an Archer good enough.
They were out-lawed for Uenison,
these peomen every chone :
They swoze them biethren on a day,
to English wood for to gone.
Now listh and listen Gentlemen,
that of mirth loberth to hear :
Two of them were single men,
the third had wedded here.
William was the wedded man,
much moze then was his care :
He said to his biethren on a day,
to Carlisle he would fare,
There to speak with fair Alice his wife,
and with his children thre :
By my troth said Adam Bell,
not by the counsel of me :
For if we go to Carlisle brother,
and from this wild wood wend,
If that the Justice do you take,
your life is at an end.

Adam Bell.

If that I come not to morrow brother

by prime to you again,

Trust you then that I am taken,

or else that I am slain.

He took his leave of his brethren two,

and to Carlile he is gone :

There he knocked at his own window

shortly and anon.

Where be you fair Alice ? he said,

my wife and children three :

Lightly let in thine own husband

William of Cloudelle.

Alas then said fair Alice,

and sighed very sore :

This place hath been beset for you

full half a year and more.

Now I am here said Cloudelle,

I would that in I were :

Now fetch us meat and drink enough,

and let us make good cheer :

She fetcht him meat and drink plenty,

like a true wedded wife :

And pleased him with what she had,

whom she loved as her life.

There lay an old wife in that plate,

a little before the fire :

Which William had found of charity,

more than seven year.

Up she rose and forth she goes,

evil might she speed therefore :

For she had not set no foot on ground,

in seven years before.

She went into the justice-hall

as fast as she could hie ;

This night she said is come to town

Adam Bell.

William of Cloudeſſe.

Thereat the Juſtice was full ſain,
and ſo the Sheriſſ alſo :

Thou ſhalt not travel hither for nought,
thy meed thou ſhalt have ere thou go.

They gave to her a right good gown,
of ſcarlet it was I heard ſain :

She took the giſt and home ſhe togt,
and couched her down again.

They raiſed the town of merry Carlile
in all the haſte they can :

And thronging faſt unto the houſe,
as faſt as they might gan :

There they beſet the good yeoman
about on every ſide :

William heard great noiſe of the folk
that thitherward faſt he'd.

Alice opened a back window
and looked all about :

She was ware of the Juſtice and Sheriſſ,
and with that a full great rout.

Alas Treason, then cried Alice,
ever woe may thou be :

Go into my chamber husband ſhe ſaid,
ſweet William of Cloudeſſe.

He took his ſword and his buckler,
his bow and childzen three :

And went into the ſtrongeſt chamber,
where he thought ſureſt to be.

Fair Alice like a lover truſt,
with a Pollar in her hand,

Said, he ſhall ſee that cometh in
this dooꝝ while I may ſtand.

Cloudeſſe bent a right good bow
that was of truſty tre :

Adam B&B.

He smote the Justice on the breast,
that his Arrow hurt in this,
Gods curle on his heart said William,
this day thy coat did on,
If it had ben no better then mine,
it had gone near the hore,
Field thee Cloundesse said the Justice,
and thy bowe and thy arrows the for,
Gods curle on his heart said fair Alice,
that my husband counsellers so.
Set fire on the house said the Sheriffe,
Gith no better it will be:
And burn we therein William, he saith,
his wife and childezen three:
They fired the house in many a place,
the fire flew on high:
Alas! then said fair Alice,
I see we here shall die.
William opened a back window,
that was in his chamber this:
And there with sheets he did let down
his wife and childezen three:
For Christs love do them no harm,
but weake you all on me.
William shot so wondrous well,
till his arrows were all gone:
And fire so fast upon him fell,
that his bow-string bent in two.
The sparkles bent and fell upon
good William of Cloundesse:
But then was he a woofull man,
and said, this is a **Comwards death to me**
Neuer had I said William,

with

Adam Bell.

with my sword in the rout to run
Then here amongst mine enemies wold
So cruelly to deeth. He took his sword and buckler then
And amongst them all he ran
Where the people thickest were
He smote down many a man
There might no man abide his strokes
So fiercely on them he ran
Then they threw windows and boz in him
And so took that promise
There they him bound hand and foot
And in a deep Dungeon him set
Now Cloudelle then said the Justice
Thou shalt be hanged in Justice
One vow shall I make said the Justice
A pair of new Gallows thou shalt have
And all the gates of Carlisle shall be shut
There shall no man come in thereat
There shall not help Clim of the Clough
Nor yet Adam Bell
Though they come with a thousand men
Nor all the devils in hell
Early in the morning the Justice arose
To the gates fast gan he gone
And commanded to shut close
Lightly they choughed
Then went to the Market place
As fast as they can hire
A pair of new gallows there had they set
Beside the Pillory
A little boy stood them among
And askt what meant that gallow-tree
They said to him a good man
Called William of Cloudelle

That

Adam Bell

That little boy was taken Swinherst, and put in a
and kept fair Alice Swinherst, and her name was Alice
Full oft he had seen Cloudele in the woods, all the while
and gave him there, to his own end, and so he went out
he went out of a crevice of the wall, and so he went out
and lightly to the wood he ran, and so he went out
There he met with these weighty gentlemen, and so he
shortly and anon, and so he went out
Alas then said the little boy, that he might no longer
you carry here all too long, and so he went out
Cloudele is tane and doom'd to death, and so he went out
and ready to be hang'd, and so he went out
Alas then said good Adam Bell, that he might no longer
that ever we saw this day, and so he went out
He might have carried here with us, and so he went out
so oft we did him pray, and so he went out
He might have, dwelt in a good house, and so he went out
under these shadows green, and so he went out
And kept both him and us at rest, and so he went out
out of trouble and care, and so he went out
Adam bent a right good bow, and so he went out
a great part, soon he had slain, and so he went out
Take that child he said to the dinner, and so he went out
and bring me mine arrow again, and so he went out
Now go we hence said these folk, and so he went out
tarry we no longer here, and so he went out
We shall him borrow by Gods grace, and so he went out
though we buy it full dear, and so he went out
To Carlisle went these good gentlemen, and so he went out
in a merry morning of May, and so he went out
Here is a fit of Cloudele, and so he went out
another is for to say, and so he went out

And when they came to merry Carlisle, and so he went out
in a fair morning tide, and so he went out

Adam Bell

They found the gates shut them unto
about on every side.

Alas then said good Adam Bell,

that ever we were made men,

These gates are shut so wondrous well,

that we may not come therein.

Then spake Clim of the Clough,

with a wile we will us in bring.

Let us say we be Messengers

strait come from the King.

Adam said I have a Letter,

let us wisely wark :

We will say we have the Kings Seal,

I hold the Porter no Clark.

Then Adam Bell beat at the gate,

with strokes great and strong.

The Porter heard such a noise thereat,

and to the gates he throng.

Who is there, said the Porter,

that maketh all this knocking?

We be two messengers said they then,

be come right from the King.

We have a Letter said Adam Bell,

to the Justice I must it bring.

Let us in our message to do,

that we were again to the King.

Here cometh none in said the Porter,

by him that died of the tre :

Till that false theif be hang'd,

call'd William of Cloudeste.

Then spake Clim of the Clough,

and swoze by Mary tre :

If that we stand long without,

like a theif hang'd thou shalt be ;

For here we have the Kings Seal,

B

what

Adam Bell.

what Turden art thou word?
The Porter weend it had ben so,
and lightly did off his hood.
Welcome is my Lords seal he said
for that you shall come in;
He opened the gate full shortly,
an evil opening for him.
Now are we in said Adam Bell,
whereof we are right fain;
But Christ he knows assuredly,
how we shall out again.
Had we the Keys said him of the Clough,
right well then should we speed;
Then might we come out well enough,
when we see time and need.
They called the Porter to counsel,
and wryng his neck in two,
And cast him in a deep dungeon,
and took the Keys him fro.
Now am I Porter said Adam Bell,
for brother the Keys we have here;
The worst Porter in merry Carlile,
that came this hundred year.
Now we will our bows bend,
into the town wi' us go,
For to deliver our dear brother,
that lieth in care and woe.
Then they bent their good bows,
and looked their strings were round,
The Market-place in merry Carlile,
they beset in that sound.
And as they looked them beside,
a pair of new gallows they see;
And the Justice with a Quest of Esquires,
that sudgeth William hang'd to be.

And

Adam Bell.

And Cloundelle lay there in a Cart,
Fast bound both feet and hand;
And a strong Rope about his neck,
already for to hang.
The Justice call'd to him a lad,
Cloundelle's clothes he should have;
To take the measure of that woman,
and thereby to make him a grave.
I have seen a great marvel said Cloundelle,
as between this and prime:
He that maketh a grave for me,
himself may lie therein.
Thou speakest proudly said the Justice,
I will thee hang with my hand:
Full well heard this his brethren two,
there still as they did stand.
Then William cast his eye aside,
and saw his two brethren
At the corner of the Market-place well pre-
ready the Justice to chase.
I see comfort said Cloundelle,
yet hope I well to fare:
If I might have my hands let free,
right little might I care.
Then spake good Adam Bell,
to Clim of the Clough so free:
Brother see you mark the Justice well,
looe ponder you may him see
At the Sheriff's foot I will
strongly with an arrow keen,
A better shot in merry Carlile,
this seven years was not seen.
They loosed their arrows both at once,
of no man they had dread:

Adam B. H.

The one hit the Justice the other the Sheriff
 that both their sides gan bleed
 All men boided that stood them nigh,
 when the Justice fell to the ground :
 And the Sheriff nigh him by,
 either had his deatch wound.
 All the Citizens fast gad he,
 they durst no longer abide ;
 There lightly they looked Cloudele,
 where he with Ropes lay tied.
 William stept to an Officer of the Town,
 his Ax out of his hand he wung
 In each side he smote them down,
 him thought he tarried all too long.
 William said to his brethren two,
 this day let us live and die ;
 If ever you have need as I have now,
 the same shall you find by me.
 They shot so well that tide,
 for their strings were of silk lute,
 That they kept the street on every side,
 the batrel did long endure.
 They fought together like brethren true,
 like hardy men and bold :
 Many a man to the ground they threw,
 and made many a heart cold.
 But when their arrows were all gone,
 men pressed on them full fast :
 They drew their swords then angh,
 and their bows from them cast.
 They went lightly on their way,
 with swords and bucklers round :
 By that it were mid of the day,
 they made many a wound,
 Many an out-horn in Carlile was blown,

and

Adam Bell.

and the Bells backward did ring:
Many a woman said alas,
and many their hands did wylng.
The Halso of Carlile forþ come was,
and with him a full great rout:
These Peomen dread him full soze,
for of their libes they were in great doubt;
The Halso came armed a full great pace,
with a Pollax in his hand:
Many a strong man with him was,
with in that flour to stand.
The Halso smote at Cloudele with his bill
his buckler byall in two:
Full many a Peoman with great evil,
alas reason they cried for wor.
Kep we the gates fast they had,
that these Traitors therout not go:
But all for nought was that they wrought,
for so fast down they were laid,
Till they all thre that so manfully fought,
were gotten out of a brayn.
Have here your keys said Adam Bell,
my Office here I forlake:
If you do by my counsel,
a new porter do you make,
He threw the keys at their heads.
and bad them evil to thysbe;
And all that letteth any good Peoman,
to come and comfort his wife.
Thus be the good Peomen gone to the wood
as lightly as leaf on linde;
They laugh and he merry in their mood,
their enemies were far behind.
When they came to English wood,
under the trusty tre;

Adam Bell.

There they found Bows full good,
and arrows great plenty.
So God me help said Adam Bell,
and Clim of the Clough to see,
I would we were in merry Carlisle,
before that fair morn.
Then late they down and made good cheer,
and eat and drinke full well:
Here is a fit of thine wight gownen,
another I will you tell.

As they late in English wood,
under their trusty tree,
They thought they heard a woman weep,
but her they could not see.
Soze then sighed fair Alice,
that ever I saw this day:
For now is my dear husband slain,
alas and well away.
Nicht I have spoken with his dear biethen
oz with either of them twain,
To shew to them what him befel,
my heart were out of pain.
Cloudele walkt a little aside,
and lookt under the green wood lindre,
He saw his wife and children three
full woe in heart and mind.
Welcome Wife said William,
under this trusty tree:
I had weena yesserday by meet St. John,
thou shoudst me never see.
Now well is me she said that ye be here,
my heart is out of woe:
I ame he said be merry and glad,
and thank my biethen two.

Adam Bell.

Hereof to speak said Adam Bell,
I wols it not to boot:
The meat that we must sup withall,
it resteth yet fast on foot.
Then went they doun into the lawnd,
these Pobleimen all thre:
Each of them slew a hart of Excece,
the best they could there see.
Have here the best Alice my wife,
said William of Cloudesse,
Because ye so boldly stood by me,
when I was slain full nigh.
Then they went to Supper
with such meat as they had,
And thanked God for their fortune,
they were merry and glad.
And when they had supped well,
certain without any lease,
Cloudesse said we will to our King,
to get us a Charter of peate.
Alice shall be at our sojournning,
in a Punnery here beside:
My two sons shall with her go,
and there they shall abide.
My eldest son shall go with me,
for him I have no care,
And he shall bring you word again
how that we do fare.
Thus be these good Peomen to London gone
as fast as they may hie:
Till they came to the Kings Pallace,
where they would needs be.
And when they came to the Kings Court,
unto the pallace gate:
Of no man would they ask leave,

but

Adam Bell.

but boldly went in thereat.
They proceeded present into the hall,
of no man they had dread:
The Porter came after, and bid them call,
and with them ean to chide.
The Alder said, Women what would you
I pray you tell to me? (have
You might have Officers hent,
good sirs from whence be ye?
Sir, we be out-lawes of the Forrest,
certain without any lease;
And hither we be come to the King,
to get us a charter of peace.
And when they came before the King,
as it was the Law of the Land:
They knaled down without letting,
and each held up his hand.
They said, Lord we beseech thee here,
that ye will grant us grace:
For we have slain your fat fallow Deer
in many a sundry place.
What be your names then said the King?
anon that you tell me:
Adam Bell, Clim of the Clough,
and William of Cloudelle.
Be ye those thieves said the King,
that men have told to me:
Here to God I make a vow,
ye shall be hang'd all three;
We shall be dead without mercy,
as I am King of this Land:
He commanded his Officers every thone,
fast on them to lay hand,
Therefore they took these good Women,
and arrested them all three:

Adam Bell.

So may I thise said Adam Bell,
this game liketh not me.
But good Lord we beseech you now,
that you will grant us grace,
Insomuch as we do to you come,
or else that we may from you pass,
With such weapons as we have here,
till we be out of your place;
And if we live this hundredth year,
we will ask of you no grace.
He speak proudly said the King,
ye shall be hanged all thre,
That were great pity said the Queen,
that any grace might be.
My Lord when I came first into this Land
to be your wedded wife,
The first boon that I would ask,
you would grant me helibe:
And I asked ye never none till now,
therefore good Lord grant it me.
Now ask it, Madam, said the King,
and granted shall it be.
Then good Lord I you beseech,
these Women grant ye me:
Madam ye might have asked a boon,
that should have been worth them all thre,
Ye might have asked towers and towns,
Parks and Forrests plenty;
None so pleasant to my pay the said,
nor none so lease to me.
Madam sith it is your desire,
your asking granted shall be:
But I had leber have given you,
good Market-Towns thre.
The Queen was a glad woman,

Adam Bell.

and said Lord grammarcy,
I dare undertake for them,
that true men they shall be:
But good Lord speak some merry word,
that they might comfort be.
I grant you grace then said the King,
wash fellows, and to meat go ye.
They had not sitten but a while;
certain without leading:
There came two Helleners out of the north
with Letters to the King.
And when they came before the King,
they kneeled down upon their knes:
And said your Officers greet you well,
of Carlisle in the North Country.
How fareth my Justice, (said the King)
and my Sheriff also?
Sir they be slain without leading,
and many an Officer more.
Who hath them slain? said the King,
anon that you tell me:
Adam Bell, Clim of the Clough,
and William of Cloudele.
Alas for truth then said the King,
my heart is wondrous sore:
I had leuer than a thousand pound,
I had known this before.
For I have granted them grace,
and that foretelsmeth me:
But had I known all this before,
they had ben hanged all three.
The King opened the Letter anon,
himself he read it thro:
And there he found how these outlaws had
thre hundred men and more. (slain;

Adam Bell.

First the Justice and the Sheriff,
and the Mayor of Carlile town,
Of all the Constables and Catchpoles,
alibe he left not one.
The bayliffs and the headless both,
and the sergeants of the Law;
And forty foresters of the law,
these outlaws have yllaw,
And broke his Parks and slain his deer,
of all they chose the best:
So perillous outlaws as they were,
walked not by East nor West.
When the King this Letter had read,
in heart he sighed full sore:
Take up the Table then said he,
for I can eat no more.
The King then called his best Archers,
to the butts with him to go:
I will see these fellows shot said he,
that in the North have wrought this woe.
The Kings Bowmen buskt them blithe,
and the Queens Archers also:
So did these wight women,
with them they thought to go:
There twice or thrice they shot about,
for to assay their hand:
There was no shoot these women shot,
that any prick might stand,
Then spake William of Cloudele,
by him that for me died;
I hold him never good Archer,
that shooteth at Butts so wilde.
Whereat then said the King,
I pray thee tell to me:
At such a But sir he said,

Adam Bell.

as men use in country.
William went into the field;
and his two brethren with him;
There they set up two halal rods,
twenty score pace between:
I hold him an Archer said Cloundelle,
that yonder wand cleaveth in two;
Here is none such, said the King;
for no man can so do.
I shall assay sir, said Cloundelle,
or that I further go:
Cloundelle with a bearing arrow,
clave the wand in two.
Thou art the best Archer, said the King,
forsooth that ever I saw:
And yet for your love said William,
I will do more mattery.
I have a son is seven year old,
he is to me full dear:
I will tie him to a stake,
all shall see him that he here,
And lay an apple upon his head,
and go sixscore pace him fro,
And I my self with a broad arrow,
shall cleave the apple in two.
Now haste thee then, said the King,
by him that dieth on a tree,
But if thou dost not as thou hast said,
hanged shalt thou be,
And if thou touch his head or gown,
in sight that man may see;
By all the Saints that be in heaven,
I shall you hang all three.
That I have promised said William,
I never will forsake:

And

Adam Bell.

And there even befoze the King,
In the earth he dyed a stake;
And bound thereto his eldest son,
and had him stand still thereat;
And turn'd the child's face him fro,
because he should not start.
An apple upon his head he sat,
and there his bow he bent:
Sixscore paces there were met,
and thither Cloudele went.
There he drew out a fair broad arrow,
his bow was great and long:
He set that arrow in his bow,
which was both stiffe and strong.
He prayed the people that were there,
that they would still stand:
For he that shote for such a wager,
had need of a steddie hand.
Much people prayed for Cloudele,
that his life saved might be:
And when he made him ready to shoot,
there many a weeping eye:
Thus Cloudele clabe the apple in two,
as many a man might see:
Now God forbid then said the King,
that thou shouldest shoot at me,
I give thee xviij. pence a day,
and my bow shalt thou bear;
And over all the North Country,
I make thee chief Wiver:
And he gave thee xliij. pence a day, said the
by God, and by my say, (Queen.
Come fetch thy payment when thou wilt,
no man shall say thee nay.
William, I make thee a Gentleman,

Adam Bell

of cloathing and of see :
And thy two brethren yemen of my chamber
for they are lovely to see : of souls
Your son for he is tender of age ;
of my wine celler shall be,
And when he comes to Mans estate,
better preferred shall be.
And William bying me your wife,
I long full soye to see :
She shall be my chief Gentlewoman
to govern my Nurserie.
The yemen thanked them full comtroversly,
and said to some Bishop we will toend,
Of all the sins that we have done,
to be assolled at his handernd
So forth he gone these good yemen,
as fast as they can hie.
And after came and lived with the King,
and died good yemen all three.
Thus endeth the liues of these good yemen.
God send them eternal blis :
And all that with hand bow sheweth,
that of heaben may receiue bliss.

FINIS.

